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Date: March 12, 2020
To: Senator Dan Kerschen, Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council
RE: House Bill 2432, transfers to the pesticide waste disposal program

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2432 on behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC). The KCC is a voluntary trade association representing all forms of cooperatively-structured businesses in Kansas. Its mission is to promote, support, and advance the interests, business success, and understanding of agricultural, utility, credit, and consumer cooperatives and their members through legislation and regulatory efforts, education, and public relations. Simply, cooperatives differ from other businesses because they are member-owned, member-controlled, democratically-governed, and profits are returned back to the patrons.

Specifically, agriculture cooperatives often have grain, agronomy, precision ag, seed, fuels, feed, and financing operations. Our grain elevator and pesticide dealer coop members pay annual fees into the Kansas agricultural remediation fund within the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). This fund serves as a self-insurance measure to help recoup remediation clean-up expenses if and when they are incurred by our members. As other conferees have testified, this program receives no state general fund dollars and is 100% self-funded by the agribusinesses industry.

The KCC supports the provisions set forth in HB 2432, which would allow annual transfers up to \$50,000 from the agricultural remediation fund to administer the pesticide waste disposal program within the KDA. The program was previously administered with federal grant dollars that are now expired; **and our members feel that helping pay for the safe collection and disposal of pesticide waste materials is a valuable use of their dollars.**

For these reasons, the KCC stands in support of HB 2432. Thank you for allowing us to comment today.